

August 2, 2010

Carolyn Biggins
Chief, Division of Transit Services
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 5th floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. Biggins,

The City of Rockville and Montgomery College request that Ride On adjust Route 45 to:

1. Add a bus stop on the Rockville Campus at South Campus Drive, and
2. Extend evening hours on Monday through Saturday service.

The City and College value the services Ride On offers and believe these adjustments fill a gap in service that will benefit both Rockville residents and College students, faculty and staff over the long term.

Route 45 serves a significant portion of Rockville as it travels from the Twinbrook Metro station to the Fallsgrove neighborhood, passing through the Rockville Metro station and Town Center. The neighborhoods served by Route 45 include Twinbrook, Burgundy Estates, East Rockville, Town Center, College Gardens, Plymouth Woods, Woodley Gardens, West End, and Fallsgrove. While it passes in the vicinity of Montgomery College with stops on Hungerford Drive next to the campus, Route 45 does not currently include a stop on the campus.

Four bus routes currently serve the Rockville campus with a stop on South Campus Drive (Ride On 46 and 55, Metro Q2 and Q6). Those routes are extremely valuable, but offer limited service to neighborhoods. Before and after leaving the campus they travel north and south on Route 355 and south on Viers Mill Road. That leaves Route 45 riders coming from across several Rockville neighborhoods, two Metro stations and the Fallsgrove Transit Center without the same direct access to the Montgomery College campus. A small adjustment to Route 45 to add a loop off of Route 355 onto South Campus Drive would fill that gap.

Extending the hours of service on Route 45 would also benefit Montgomery College users and Rockville commuters. Route 45 northbound operates until 8:12 pm Monday through Friday. Route 45 southbound operates until 6:58 pm Monday through Friday. Saturday service extends to approximately 7:30 pm. Increasing the hours of service will allow current users and potential future users to travel to campus later into the evening for evening classes and

activities. On weekdays, this will also increase options for commuters who take Route 45 from the Twinbrook or Rockville Metro station to their homes at the end of a long evening commute.

The City and Montgomery College believe that filling these service gaps will benefit both Rockville and Montgomery College. Montgomery College is a valuable asset to the Rockville community. Anything Ride On can do to help residents access the campus is important. The requested changes also support Montgomery College. Enrollment is expected to increase 6.3% through 2016. As on campus parking is strained and students seek affordable options to travel to campus, Ride On service from neighborhoods to campus becomes more critical.

Thank you for your attention. We understand the time and effort involved in analyzing the route, and appreciate your help to ensure access to Ride On services continues to meet the community's needs. Please contact Jennifer Kimball, Assistant City Manager, at 240-314-8104 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Marcuccio
Mayor
City of Rockville

Dr. Judy Ackerman
Vice President and Provost
Montgomery College,
Rockville Campus

cc:

Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Nancy Floreen, President, Montgomery County Council
Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council
Jennie Forehand, State Senator
Kumar Barve, State Delegate
Jim Gilchrist, State Delegate
Luiz Simmons, State Delegate
Scott Ullery, City Manager
Craig Simoneau, Director, Department of Public Works